

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1

of 3

Complete if Known

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Application Number | 10/015,303 |
| Filing Date | December 12, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor | Michael D. Hooven |
| Art Unit | 3739 |
| Examiner Name | Rosiland S. Kearney |
| Attorney Docket Number | 0320-0016 (HOOV 116) |

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| <i>RB</i> | 1 | US- 5,323,781 | 06-28-1994 | Ideker et al. | |
| | 2 | US- 5,500,012 | 03-19-1996 | Brucker et al. | |
| | 3 | US- 5,876,398 | 03-02-1999 | Mulier et al. | |
| | 4 | US- 5,891,138 | 04-06-1999 | Tu et al. | |
| | 5 | US- 5,897,554 | 04-27-1999 | Chia et al. | |
| | 6 | US- 6,033,402 | 03-07-2000 | Tu et al. | |
| | 7 | US- 6,064,902 | 05-16-2000 | Haissaguerre et al. | |
| | 8 | US- 6,068,653 | 05-30-2000 | LaFontaine | |
| | 9 | US- 6,113,595 | 09-05-2000 | Muntermann | |
| | 10 | US- 6,117,101 | 09-12-2000 | Diederich et al. | |
| | 11 | US- 6,123,703 | 09-26-2000 | Tu et al. | |
| | 12 | US- 6,142,994 | 11-7-2000 | Swanson et al. | |
| | 13 | US- 6,156,033 | 12-05-2000 | Tu et al. | |
| | 14 | US- 6,193,713 | 02-27-2001 | Geistert et al. | |
| | 15 | US- 6,292,678 | 09-18-2001 | Hall et al. | |
| | 16 | US- 6,356,790 | 03-12-2002 | Maguire et al. | |
| | 17 | US- 6,447,507 | 09-10-2002 | Bednarek et al. | |
| | 18 | US- 6,474,340 | 11-05-2002 | Vaska et al. | |
| | 19 | US- 6,488,678 | 12-03-2002 | Sherman | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Examiner
Signature*Rosiland S. Kearney*Date
Considered*12/01/03*

*EXAMINER: Initial reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2

of 3

Complete if Known

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Application Number | 10/015,303 |
| Filing Date | December 12, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor | Michael D. Hooven |
| Art Unit | 3739 |
| Examiner Name | Rosiland S. Kearney |
| Attorney Docket Number | 0320-0016 (HOOV 116) |

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| ER | 20 | US- 6,506,189 | 01-14-2003 | Rittman, III et al. | |
| | 21 | US- 6,575,969 | 05-10-2003 | Rittman, III et al. | |
| | 22 | US- 6,610,055 | 08-26-2003 | Swanson et al. | |
| | 23 | US- 6,632,222 | 10-14-2003 | Edwards et al. | |
| | 24 | US- 6,334,860 | 01-01-2002 | Dorn | |
| | 25 | US- 2002/0002329 A1 | 01-03-2002 | Avitall | |
| | 26 | US- 2002/0019629 A1 | 02-14-2002 | Dietz et al. | |
| | 27 | US- 2002/0115990 A1 | 08-22-2002 | Acker | |
| | 28 | US- 2002/0128643 A1 | 09-12-2002 | Simpson et al. | |
| | 29 | US- 2002/0082595 A1 | 06-27-2002 | Langberg et al. | |
| | 30 | US- 2002/0099364 A1 | 07-25-2002 | Lalonde | |
| | 31 | US- 2003/0009094 A1 | 01-09-2003 | Segner et al. | |
| | 32 | US- 2003/0028187 A1 | 02-06-2003 | Vaska et al. | |
| | 33 | US- 2003/0060822 A1 | 03-27-2003 | Schaer et al. | |
| | 34 | US- 2003/0069572 A1 | 04-10-2003 | Wellman et al. | |
| | 35 | US- 2003/0069577 A1 | 04-10-2003 | Vaska et al. | |
| | 36 | US- 2003/0078570 A1 | 04-24-2003 | Heiner et al. | |
| | 37 | US- 2003/0078574 A1 | 04-24-2003 | Hall et al. | |
| | 38 | US- 2003/0093104 A1 | 05-15-2003 | Bonner et al. | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| | | Country Code ³ ~Number ⁴ ~Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Examiner
Signature

Rosiland S. Kearney

Date
Considered

12/01/03

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 3 of 3**Complete if Known**

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Application Number | 10/015,303 |
| Filing Date | December 12, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor | Michael D. Hooven |
| Art Unit | 3739 |
| Examiner Name | Rosiland S. Kearney |
| Attorney Docket Number | 0320-0016 (HOOV 116) |

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| RL | 39 | US- 2003/0097124 A1 | 05-22-2003 | Lehmann et al. | |
| | 40 | US- 2003/0100895 A1 | 05-29-2003 | Simpson et al. | |
| | 41 | US- 2003/0114844 A1 | 06-19-2003 | Ormsby et al. | |
| | 42 | US- 2003/0120268 A1 | 06-26-2003 | Bertolero et al. | |
| | 43 | US- 2003/0125726 A1 | 07-03-2003 | Maguire et al. | |
| | 44 | US- 2003/0125730 A1 | 07-03-2003 | Berube et al. | |
| | 45 | US- 2003/0130598 A1 | 07-10-2003 | Manning et al. | |
| | 46 | US- 2003/0135207 A1 | 07-17-2003 | Langberg et al. | |
| | 47 | US- 2003/0144657 A1 | 07-31-2003 | Bowe et al. | |
| | 48 | US- 2003/0158548 A1 | 08-21-2003 | Phan et al. | |
| | 49 | US- 2003/0171745 A1 | 09-11-2003 | Francischelli et al. | |
| | 50 | US- 2003/0178032 | 9-25-2003 | Ingle et al. | |
| | 51 | US- 2003/0050557 | 03-13-2003 | Susil et al. | |
| | 52 | US- 5,125,928 | 06-30-1992 | Parins et al. | |
| | 53 | US- 6,332,089 | 12-18-2001 | Acker et al. | |
| | 54 | US- 6,540,740 | 04-01-2003 | Lehmann et al. | |
| 7 | 55 | US- 2002/0052602 A1 | 05-02-2002 | Wang et al. | |
| | 56 | US- 2003/0045871 A1 | 03-06-2003 | Jain et al. | |
| | | US- | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Examiner
Signature*Rosiland S. Kearney*Date
Considered*12/2/03*

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.